

The 570 Network: Biz | Calendar | Cars | Classifieds | Homes | Jobs | Varsity | Directory • Subscribe • Sign in • Newsletter signup • News Alerts



Enter a search term...	Search	Enter a search term...	Search
	Search		

HOME • NEWS • SPORTS • COMMUNITY • ARTS & LIVING • OPINION • CLASSIFIEDS •
 CUSTOMER SERVICE STATE | DRILLING | BUSINESS | ELECTION | COURTS/POLICE | OBITUARIES |
 DATA CENTER | CORRUPTION PROBE | REPORT PROBLEMS



Earn a free \$50 restaurant gift card
when you stay 2 separate times



www.choicehotels.com

Compliance check turns up large stash of illegal fireworks

BY PETER PANEPINTO (STAFF WRITER)
Published: July 1, 2010

Font size: [A] [A] [A]

E-MAIL THIS SHARE THIS

YAHOO! BUZZ



Warren Ruda / The Citizens' Voice Trooper Martin Connors examines one of three vans filled with seized fireworks. The vehicles, plus a sport utility vehicle, were used to transport the illegal fireworks to Troop P barracks in Wyoming.

State police at Wyoming seized thousands of dollars worth of fireworks Wednesday from two roadside tents in Luzerne County.

Trooper Martin Connors said Wednesday's bust was the largest in the past decade.

Police raided the tents in Edwardsville and Wilkes-Barre Township after employees of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture were sold illegal "consumer and display fireworks" during a random compliance check, Connors said. Display fireworks include cherry bombs and M-80s.

Four local residents who were working at the tents may be charged with a misdemeanor under Pennsylvania's Fireworks Law, Connors said. Both tents were owned by the same person. Penalties for the illegal sale of fireworks range from a \$100 fine to a felony charge.

Connors said fireworks that emit showers of sparks are not permitted to be sold to consumers without permits.

"If it goes up in the air, it's illegal," Connors said.

He said ground and handheld sparking devices, novelties and toy caps are the only types of fireworks a person can purchase

and use without a permit. Fireworks packages that bear the words "consumer" or "display" are illegal without proper permits, he said.

At about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, troopers were loading four vans with fireworks seized from the tent along state Route 11 in Edwardsville. Two police vehicles were parked outside the tent and about four police officers packed cardboard boxes full of fireworks into each van. The tent in Wilkes-Barre Township along state Route 309 was raided earlier in the day Wednesday, Connors said.

The fireworks were transported to the state police headquarters in Wyoming County. The fireworks were expected to be confiscated by the Department of Agriculture and destroyed at bomb ranges, he said.

In order to sell consumer and display fireworks, a person must obtain a permit from the Department of Agriculture. Consumer fireworks are not illegal, but it is illegal to sell them to people in Pennsylvania who do not possess a display permit, he said.

An individual wishing to purchase fireworks in Pennsylvania must obtain a display permit from the municipality in which they plan to use the fireworks. In order to obtain a permit, a person needs a minimum of \$500 for insurance-related coverage and must be deemed competent by a local authority.

Out-of-state residents can purchase consumer and display fireworks in Pennsylvania as long as they transport them to their home state immediately, he said. Connors said people have been burned, hurt and even killed by trying to set off illegal fireworks. He said fireworks shows in Kirby Park and other places always have safety precautions and fire trucks nearby.

"We had incidents where they fall on houses and light them on fire," he said. "People being burned and people being killed by things like these. If you want to see some something like this, then leave it to the professionals."

ppanepinto@citizensvoice.com, 301-2182 Before you buy

Pennsylvania law regulates the types of fireworks that may be purchased and sold. "Ground and hand-held sparking devices," "novelties" and "toy caps" are permitted, but many others are restricted.



REPORT NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS

SPEEDING THROUGH TINY STREETS 1 person wants this fixed
PERSHING ST 18702

Fix This!

neglected for 5 years 2 people want this fixed
29-31 Main St, Pittston, PA 18640, USA

Fix This!

road lines/lights 2 people want this fixed
Market St, Jenkins Twp

Fix This!

HASN'T CUT GRASS IN 4 YEARS 6 people want this fixed
13-15 OAK ST JENKINS TOWNSHIP

Fix This!

Airport using heat and airconditioning at the SAME TIME! 1 person wants this fixed
203 Hanover St. Warrior Run,

Fix This!

See all issues »

Report a Problem

SeeClickFix
powered by



News

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS, BOMBS SEIZED IN SWEEP TASK FORCE FINDS DANGEROUS CACHES IN RESIDENTS' HANDS

By *The Record*
July 01, 2010

STOCKTON - A special task force funded by permit fees issued to 30 community nonprofit organizations selling "safe and sane" fireworks this Fourth of July season confiscated illegal fireworks and even homemade bombs during its first sweep.

Stockton, for the first time in more than 40 years, is permitting the sale of "safe and sane" fireworks within city limits. Sales began Monday at 30 booths throughout the city that are being operated by local nonprofit organizations.

As part of the effort to make sure those using fireworks are doing so in a safe manner and not using or selling illegal fireworks, the Stockton Police Department and the Stockton Fire Department have created an Enforcement Task Force.

After their first night on fireworks patrol, Stockton police spokesman Officer Pete Smith said the task force realized what they had feared - that is there is an abundance of dangerous, illegal fireworks in the hands of residents.

They impounded 40 pounds of illegal fireworks, along with seven homemade magnesium bombs. The task force issued four citations.

"They aren't arrests at this point unless you had a felony situation where someone had a huge stash," Smith said, adding that officers are confiscating the illegal fireworks.

"But there is a criminal investigation in regards to the homemade bombs," he said.

Smith said it appears the illegal fireworks came over the border from Washington, Oregon or Mexico.

If the first night's activity is an indicator, the size of the task force is relatively modest, Smith said.

Fire Marshal Matthew Duaine said only fireworks certified as "safe and sane" by the state fire marshal and sold at one of the city's 30 permitted booths are legal.

Sales at the booths will end at 9 p.m. Sunday. Any discharge of any kind of fireworks after 11 p.m. Sunday will be illegal, Smith said, noting the time has been changed from midnight.

The Stockton Police and Fire departments are asking for the community's help. If residents suspect anyone of having or using illegal fireworks, they are asked to call (209) 888-8898, a hot line for illegal fireworks. Callers can remain anonymous. People who have illegal fireworks and would like to turn in the explosives for disposal also can call the number.

Photo 1 of 1 | Zoom Photo +



Some of the illegal fireworks confiscated in Stockton by a joint police-fire task force.

Stockton Police Department

Email A Friend | Submit Your Own Photo



Free*

blue Palm® Pixi™

limited-time, online offer! free shipping!

Get It Now

Offer Details*

[<< Back](#)



Illegal Fireworks sold in Ashland

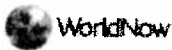
Ashland, NE (KPTM) On Monday, State Fire Marshal investigators purchased illegal explosive devices from a retail fireworks stand.

The license for the stand was revoked and the entire stock of merchandise was seized. The seller William Kunath was arrested by Saunders County authorities for possession and sale of explosives.

The selling of legal fireworks in Nebraska began last Friday on June 25, in locations where permitted.

"These devices are made, packaged and labeled to appear like consumer fireworks, yet they are powerful enough to cause dismemberment, blindness or death," State Fire Marshal John Falgoine said. "These devices are extremely dangerous due to their deceptive packaging. While they may look like other kinds of fireworks they contain enough powder to be considered explosives."

Anyone who may have purchased these items is urged to call the State Fire Marshal's Office at 402-471-2027, the Arson Hotline at 1-888-WY-ARSON (888-992-7766), or contact their local law enforcement agency to ensure their proper handling and safe destruction.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2010 WorldNow and KPTM. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).



Everything Michigan

Jackson police confiscate \$4,600 in illegal fireworks being sold outside gas station on the east side

Published: Tuesday, July 06, 2010, 11:01 AM Updated: Tuesday, July 06, 2010, 11:08 AM



Danielle Quisenberry | Jackson Citizen P... *atriot*

Jackson police found illegal fireworks for sale last weekend outside the Marathon gas station on E. Michigan Avenue.

An undercover officer purchased about \$100 worth of the fireworks Sunday afternoon from a tent set up on the east side of the station at 1504 E. Michigan Ave., Lt. Elmer Hitt said.

Police then went back and, with the owner or operator's permission, confiscated \$4,600 worth of the devices, he said.

The sale of legal fireworks was allowed to continue, Hitt said.

No one was arrested. A report of the events is to be forwarded to the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office for review, Hitt said.

© 2010 MLive.com. All rights reserved.



http://www.seattlepi.com/sound/422905_sound97714419.html

Task Force seizes illegal fireworks at Boom City

Monday, July 5, 2010

Last updated 9:31 a.m. PT

By MARYSVILLE GLOBE

TULALIP - A 41-year-old adult male Tulalip Tribal member was arrested July 2 at 3 p.m. at Boom City for possession and sale of illegal explosives to undercover Tulalip Tribal Police Detectives. The operator was also arrested for unlawful possession of a small amount of prescription pills. Tulalip Police, assisted by the FBI and Alcohol Tobacco Firearms, raided and seized the fireworks stand pending further investigation.

Boom City stand operators are licensed to sell fireworks that meet Federal standards, the 40-60 illegal explosive devices seized today contained excessive explosive powder; some were homemade cylinder and triangle bombs. Tulalip police maintains daily law enforcement presence during Boom City hours from 6 a.m. to midnight, from June 18 until July 4.

The Tribes' Board of Directors support the enforcement of Tulalip Tribal Codes and partnering with other law enforcement agencies to promote safety, law and order on the Reservation. The Tulalip Tribal police task force works continuously with Federal and State Law Enforcement Agencies on criminal investigations concerning any suspected illegal activity in connection with the Tulalip Reservation.

The Tribal member was booked on Tribal charges at Snohomish County Jail pending transfer to federal authorities.

Comment on this story

RELATED STORIES

- Council passes new penalties for illegal fireworks
- City cracks down on illegal fireworks
- Council passes new penalties for illegal fireworks
- Council passes new penalties for illegal fireworks

This article was originally published in the Marysville Globe on July 2, 2010.

© 1998-2010 Seattle Post-Intelligencer



Back to web version

Wednesday, Jul 7, 2010

Posted on Sun, Jul 04, 2010

Police raid five area fireworks stands; charge eight, seize \$45,000 in illegal devices

BY LAURA GIRRESCH
News-Democrat

The St. Clair County Sheriff's Department since Wednesday has busted five fireworks stands that were apparently selling illegal wares and confiscated at least \$45,000 worth of fireworks.

Sheriff's Department Capt. Steve Johnson said undercover investigators on Wednesday attempted to purchase fireworks that are only legally allowed to be sold to those with special fireworks display permits, such as a municipality that puts on a display for the public.

As the investigators didn't have those special permits and the businesses sold to them, eight people were charged with selling illegal fireworks, a Class A misdemeanor.

Investigators warned the businesses, located in Alorton, Centreville and East St. Louis, that they would return, and two of them sold fireworks to undercover officers again Friday.

Johnson reiterated the fact that in Illinois, if fireworks shoot into the air and explode, they are illegal.

"In Illinois, No. 1, it's the law; No. 2, it's about safety," he said.

Four of the implicated stands didn't have obvious names for their businesses, Johnson said. They were at the Phillips 66 gas station at Illinois 15 and Old Missouri Avenue in Alorton, near the Four Corners tavern on Camp Jackson Road in Centreville, at 50th Street and Bond Avenue in Alorton and at the BP gas station on Broadway in East St. Louis. Mollie's Fireworks at Old Missouri and Bond avenues in Centreville also was caught.

Owners of the stands couldn't be reached for comment. The names of those charged were not available Saturday evening.

The BP stand in East St. Louis on Wednesday also didn't have permission from the state fire marshal's office to sell to those with special display permits. There, investigators confiscated \$35,000 worth of fireworks. The person managing the stand told investigators he could have made an extra \$70,000 in profit from the confiscated items.

When the deputies revisited the stands Friday, Mollie's in Centreville and the stand at Phillips 66 in Alorton sold to them again, Johnson said.

He said that at the Phillips 66 stand Friday, upon finding no fireworks on display, undercover investigators asked to buy some. A van with newspaper-covered windows pulled up, and those working there opened up the van to show illegal fireworks for sale. In that incident, Johnson said, investigators seized the van and \$10,000 worth of illegal fireworks and arrested two people. One of the individuals arrested also had a warrant for battery and assault.

When the staff at Mollie's again sold to investigators on Friday, the person who made the sale fled the scene in a vehicle and led deputies on a pursuit to Centreville City Hall, where she was taken into custody. She was charged with fleeing police and selling illegal fireworks.

To get permission to sell usually outlawed fireworks to those with special display permits, the businesses need to have permission from the local government and permission from the state fire marshal's office. Johnson said some of the stands caught selling illegal fireworks were confused about the rules, while others were just ignoring them.

Johnson said investigators visited several other stands in the area, including in Belleville, but they were selling legally, Johnson said.

State law defines an illegal firework as any explosive composition or substance including blank cartridges, toy cannons, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, Roman candles, bombs or other explosive fireworks of similar construction. Permitted are sparklers, snake or glow worm pellets, smoke devices, party poppers or noisemakers. Contact reporter Laura Girresch at lgirresch@bnd.com or 239-2507.

© 2007 Belleville News-Democrat and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.belleville.com>

KETV.com

Undercover Agents Buy Explosives From Fireworks Stand

Related To Story

Seller Arrested, Charged In Ashland

POSTED: 10:54 am CDT July 1, 2010

UPDATED: 9:52 am CDT July 2, 2010

ASHLAND, Neb. -- A fireworks vendor was arrested and his public stock seized after fire marshal investigators were able to buy illegal fireworks from his stand in Ashland.

William L. Kunath was charged with possession and sale of explosives. He is being held in Saunders County jail.

Ashland Police Chief Mark Powell said he was buying fireworks from the stand at 102 S. 21st St. on Monday when Kunath offered to sell him M-80s, which are illegal in Nebraska.

Powell said Kunath obviously didn't know he was making the offer to the police chief. He said he reported the offer to authorities.

"These fireworks are so dangerous because they look like, common, ordinary, consumer-type fireworks you'd celebrate the Fourth with with your family. They are, in fact, explosives," said State Fire Marshal John Falgoine.

He said the explosives are more powerful than fireworks and could cause dismemberment, blindness and death. Using a watermelon to demonstrate, he showed that one M-80 could blow the fruit to pieces.

"Our concern is that if it gets mixed in with something that children would get hold of, it may go off in their hand," Falgoine said.

Falgoine said Kunath would offer the powerful explosives to regular customers.

"He would come around and say, 'I have something a little better, for the bigger people,'" he said.

Steve Shannon works at a fireworks tent across the street from where Kunath was arrested. He said the device that Kunath is accused of selling looks like a legal "ground flower" device that appeals to kids. He said he's glad the devices are off the street.



Video: Illegal Fireworks Pack Powerful Punch

